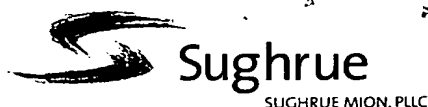


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April 6, 2006

**MAIL STOP PCT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. BOX 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PCT/JP2004/006287  
-filed April 30, 2004

Re: Application of Ken-ichiro HARA, Hidemi TAKAO, Setsuo MISHIMA, Etsuo FUJITA  
METHOD FOR PRODUCING STEEL INGOT  
**Assignee: HITACHI METALS, LTD.**  
Our Ref: Q94312

Dear Sir:

The following documents are submitted herewith in connection with the above application for the purpose of entering the National stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 and in accordance with the Patent Cooperation Treaty:

- ☐ a copy of the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.
- ☒ an English translation of the International Application.
- ☒ 9 sheet(s) of drawings.
- ☐ an English translation of Article 19 claim amendments.
- ☐ an English translation of Article 34 amendments (annexes to the IPER).
- ☐ a copy of the executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form.
- ☒ a copy of the ISR.
- ☐ a copy of the IPER.
- ☒ a PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) listing the ISR/IPER references.
- ☐ a copy of each reference cited in the ISR/IPER.
- ☒ a Preliminary Amendment.

A copy of the Declaration and Power of Attorney, and a copy of the Assignment will be submitted at a later date.

In addition to the documents submitted herewith, it is assumed that copies of the International Application, the International Search Report and cited references, the International Preliminary Examination Report, and any Articles 19 and 34 amendments as required by §371(c) will be supplied directly by the International Bureau, but if further copies are needed, the undersigned will undertake to provide them upon request.



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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

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IAF9 Rec'd PCPTO 06 APR 2006

It is expressly requested that the national stage of processing be commenced immediately in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 371(f).

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>12</u>	-	<u>20</u>	=		x	\$50.00	=	<u>\$0.00</u>
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	-	<u>3</u>	=		x	\$200.0	=	<u>\$0.00</u>
							0		
Base Fee									<u>\$300.00</u>
Search Fee*									<u>\$400.00</u>
Examination Fee*									<u>\$200.00</u>
<b><u>TOTAL FEE</u></b>									<u>\$900.00</u>

\* The international search fee for all claims was not paid to the USPTO, as the ISA, but the ISR is being submitted herewith.

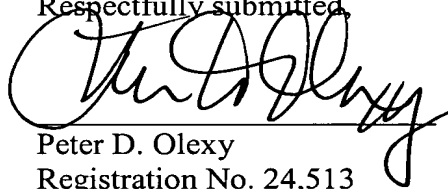
You are authorized to charge the statutory filing fee of \$900.00 to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
Japan	2003-349559	October 8, 2003

The entire disclosure(s) of the prior application(s), Japanese application numbers JP 2003-349559 filed October 8, 2003 is/are considered part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is/are hereby incorporated by reference.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Peter D. Olexy  
Registration No. 24,513

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Date: April 6, 2006